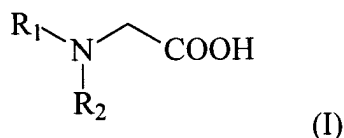


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry, which treatment comprises orally administering at least one glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18 carbon atoms or wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring;

~~wherein the method is selected from the group consisting of a method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry and a method for reducing the incidence of ascites in poultry.~~

2. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, and mixtures or salts thereof.

3. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

4. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

6. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50 kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day.

7. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound thereof is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed.

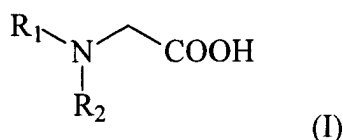
8-32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

34-35. (canceled).

36. (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein the glycine compound is DMG or a salt thereof.

37. (new): A method for increasing the apparent metabolizability of the dry matter of feed used to raise poultry thereby reducing the conversion rate of said feed, which treatment comprises orally administering at least one glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

38. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, or mixtures or salts thereof.

39. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

40. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

41. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

42. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50 kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day.

43. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the glycine compound thereof is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed.

44. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

45. (new): The method according to claim 38, wherein the glycine compound is DMG or a salt thereof.

46. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the apparent metabolizability of the proteins contained in said feed is increased by orally administering said glycine compound to the poultry.